CR Planning

Community Resources

December 19, 2003

Guy Fischer
City of Minneapolis
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Minneapolis, MN 55415

Guy:

As we discussed previously, the Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC) is leading a new renewable energy partnership – the Minnesota Million Solar Roofs Partnership. Million Solar Roofs (MSR) is a five-year old initiative of the U.S. Department of Energy to promote solar roof technology across the nation, with a goal of having one million solar roofs in the nation by 2010. The Minnesota MSR Partnership is one of 70 in the nation.

The Minnesota MSR is looking to local governments and businesses to become partners in MSR, particularly those communities that have already set CO_2 reduction or renewable energy development as priority goals. The commitment made by partners is to work help the Minnesota MSR partnership meet its solar roof target (500 rooftops by 2010) and to promote solar energy technology. The partnership encourages, but does not require, formal commitments on installing solar technology or assisting others in such installations.

Partnership has some benefits to the City as well. The MSR program received a grant to conduct promotional and programmatic efforts in Minnesota. The MSR program will be providing technical assistance through CR Planning (a business MSR partner), to help local governments identify regulatory and administrative barriers to solar installations, eliminate the barriers, create new regulatory or administrative incentives, and identify potential public realm investments in solar projects.

The City of Minneapolis has already demonstrated its commitment to energy efficiency, renewable energy, and climate protection. I urge the City to join the partnership and move closer to its CO_2 reduction goals and its sustainable development policy commitments to renewable energy.

Please call me at 612-588-4904 if you have questions or need additional information. Mike Taylor at the DOC is the Partnership coordinator, and may be reached at 651-296-6830.

Sincerely,

Brian Ross
Principal